

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

1505 Dover Street, Worthington, MN

August 2016 Newsletter

Why am I a Christian?

Why am I a Christian? It's amazing how such a complex question can be contained within such a simple five-word sentence! The answer to the question is difficult. It's like saying "why do I love my wife?" There are many levels of response and some of them are difficult to articulate. This is because the reasons go beyond the basic facts of life and into the realms of spiritual thought. Another way of saying it is the heart has reasons that reason doesn't know.

I am a Christian simply because he has called me through his tenderness and love. Even though I have a heart that is prone to wander far and wide in the false delights of this world, I know he has never left my side. He continually tells me, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul."

I am a Christian because it was in the Church that I first heard the proclamation that my sin has been wiped away by the blood of Jesus Christ, and by God's Grace, I responded to that proclamation. It is my delight to be continually drawn into the community of the faithful, the community founded by Christ for the purpose of proclaiming His message, of bringing people to Him, and of presenting Him bodily in the sacraments. I am a Christian because I know I am standing in a tradition that transcends my meager existence, something bigger than me, that gives my life meaning and purpose.

The great Christian apologist, G. K. Chesterton once wrote: "In the last analysis, the reason why I am a Christian is that the Church is living and not a dead teacher." That pretty much sums it up for me. I'm a Christian because it is in the Christian Church that I continually discover the presence and activity of God in my life through Christ Jesus.

Someone has said that the best reason for becoming a Christian is other Christians, and the best reason for not becoming a Christian is other Christians. In my life I have come to learn that it is the first statement of that paradox that is the most truthful. God has called me by his gospel, yet it is the church that keeps me in the faith. What a blessing it is to be part of a loving and nurturing church body that proclaims the love of Christ to each other and the world.

Why are you a Christian? Your answers might vary somewhat, and be expressed differently than my response. Yet all of us individual Christians have been called together to be Christ's one body here on earth. As quoted above, "The church is living and not a dead teacher." It is here we continually learn to love, forgive, and serve. St. Matthew needs each and every one of you with your unique gifts and talents to carry out Christ's mission to this community, and the world. It is a marvelous thing to be a Christian, and even more amazing that God has chosen us to be part of his mission here on earth. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" Galatians 6:9.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

SUMMER WORSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Wednesday Worship (this service will continue through Labor Day)

6:00 p.m. Worship

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

by Roxann Leckband

Family Night will be on August 21st from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Grilled hamburgers will be the main entrée. Please bring a dish to share. Children's activities and care provided.

Mom's/Young Women's Group will be on Friday – August 5, 12, and 26 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Bible story time, crafts, games, singing and snacks will be available for the children as the moms enjoy sharing in God's Word and fellowship.

My New Bible Classes will be on August 17 and 24 from 5:15-5:55 p.m. This class is for children entering 3rd grade or those who have not previously attended. The "New Bible" blessing and presentation will be on Sunday, August 28th at the 10:30 service or August 31st at the 6:00 p.m. service. More information will be mailed out to this year's 3rd graders.

Noon Fellowship will be August 8th with brats, hotdogs and baked beans as the main entrée. Please bring a dish to pass, a free-will offering or just yourself. Come for good food, fellowship and a time in God's Word.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Family Fun with our Sunday School Kick-Off will be on September 11th at 11:30 a.m.
- Early Communion classes for our 5th graders will be on September 7 and 14 from 5:15-5:55 p.m.
- Confirmation Parent Meeting will be on September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Watch our weekly bulletins and the September Newsletter for more information about these events.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – since we did not have a Youth Board Meeting in August we have nothing to report on at this time. Please watch the weekly bulletins and the September Newsletter for upcoming events.

CHURCH RECORDS

Deaths

- Paul Hagen passed away June 25, 2016. Funeral service was held June 29, 2016.
- Barbara (Sherry) Sauder passed away July 12, 2016.
- Rodney Seegers passed away July 11, 2016. Memorial services will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2016.

Wedding

- Janae Vonk & Brendan Kazemba were united in holy marriage on July 16, 2016.
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MUSIC & WORSHIP NEWS

Due to the cold and wet spring, seasonal tuning of our pipe organ and pianos was delayed until mid-June, after the air conditioning was running. Spring tuning of the 3 acoustic pianos was completed on June 21 by Larry Paulson. David Salmen, our organ tuner, completed spring tuning and maintenance of the pipe organ on June 23.

Wednesday evening services have been going well, with attendance being between 40-50. Darci Holt has been serving as keyboardist for the Wednesday services, and we thank her for her service. Worship is at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, with refreshments served following the service. We encourage you to join us, especially if you're unable to attend Sunday morning worship.

Joy and I would like to give a special "thank you" to the young people who participated in our June 26 and July 3 services. Song leaders for the 10:30 service on June 26 were Autumn Arnt, Bethany Dorschner, and Kasen White. Autumn Arnt did a great job of stepping up to the plate on July 3, serving as organist for the second half of the 8:00 AM service, and serving as keyboardist for the 10:30 service. A word of thanks and encouragement to these young people, as well as our other worship band members would be greatly appreciated. Please also thank Ron Dorschner for all of the time and effort he put into organizing the sound equipment for our outdoor worship on July 24.

Pastor, Lorenda, and Joy have been discussing future direction for music at St. Matthew. Some areas of concern and need are additional members for our choir, handbell choir, and worship band. Our adult choir has had some strong members move away from the area, and others temporarily leave the area during the winter months. We need additional singers in order to have a strong adult choir.

Our sound and projection techs have an extremely important part in our ministry at St. Matthew. Without them, we would not have our screen shows projected for services, and would not have adequate sound for people to hear our service. We also would no longer be able to continue our service broadcast ministry. We have lost some of our sound technicians due to relocating, and have a real need for people to serve in this area.

Even though it's only August, Roxie and I are starting to plan the Sunday School Christmas Program. We will publish more information as details are worked out.

God's Blessings,
Lorenda Glade, Interim Director of Traditional Music

ALTAR GUILD

Serving in August for the 8 a.m. services is Marilyn Meyer and Velma Cortright. If you would like to be a part of the Altar Guild; please contact Sandy Meyer, 376-6290 or Velma Cortright, 376-5600.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES FOR WOMEN

The Hope and Sarah Circles will not meet in August. The Martha Circle will meet on Thursday, August 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday morning following the 8 a.m. service. A free-will donation is received to cover the expenses and benefit the various missions of the church. On the first, second, and fifth Sundays of the month, there is opportunity for your church group to host a coffee hour. Please sign up **at least 2 weeks in advance** on the “sign up sheet” in the church basement.

The third Sunday of the month, the LWML sponsor the coffee hour and the Youth host the coffee hour on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) News

There will NOT be a meeting for LWML in August. Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 21st will be hosted by the Hope Circle.

THE BANQUET: We continue to collect items for the Banquet in Sioux Falls, S.D. Please deposit your donations in the wooden collection box along the west wall in the basement. They accept silverware, cool whip containers, plastic bags, hotel sized shampoos ect. **ADVANCE NOTICE:** We have signed up to serve the noon meal at The Banquet on Saturday, January 21, 2017. We will need approximately 40 people to do this service project and anyone in 7th grade and up can help. **THANK YOU** to all who have been a part of this service in the past. We look forward to serving again.

Thank you to our wonderful church family for your many cards and well wishes for our 25th wedding anniversary. God Bless you all.

Joe & Donna Welnetz

Service Opportunity!

Are you looking for a way to serve your church? Then consider volunteering to be the projector operator, camera person, or sound person during one of our Sunday morning services. This is an important ministry to the congregation and help is needed for our services! If you are interested, please contact Bev in the church office or one of our tech crew. Training is provided!

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The children and grandchildren of David and Kathy Roslansky are hosting a party in honor of their parents’ 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, August 6, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. There will be a short program at 2:15. Let your presence be your gift!

Help is NEEDED for Communion Clean-up following the 10:30 worship service. Please contact Lori Fletcher, 478-4513, if you have any questions, or would like to help out in this ministry. Scheduling is flexible. Thank You.

ORPHAN GRAIN SHIPMENT – On June 13, 2016, John Galstad delivered 32 boxes to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska. In these boxes were a total of **91 blankets and quilts, 19 baby blankets and 61 pillowcase dresses**. The pillowcase dresses were made by JoAnn Smith (keep those pillowcases coming), 36 quilts and 2 baby quilts were made by the mission sewing ladies. **The quilts and blankets were sent to Estonia**. Thanks to each of you who contribute to help those who have little or nothing. You are blessed to be a blessing to others!

Church Officers for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

President – Nathan Holt; Vice President – Greg Leckband; Secretary – Nancy Ihrke; Elders – Ron Iverson, Tim Hansberger, Mike Dierks, LaDean Fletcher, Joel Lorenz, Jim Arnt; Trustees – Dick Thompson, Kirk Feit, Clarence Mess, Bryon Spittle, Daryl Quiring; Human Care Chairman – Deb Thompson; Board of Education Chairman – Jeanette Varuska; Stewardship Chairman – Steve Rubis; Youth Board Chairman – Dana Soleta; Evangelism Chairman – Pat Arnt; Mission Chairman – John Holeton. A listing will be posted on the bulletin boards in the north/elevator entrance and Narthex (south entrance) bulletin boards beginning July 1st.

A MESSAGE FROM LOVE INC:

LOVE INC ENTERS NEW CHAPTER

After six years of faithful excellent leadership, Brian Frodermann has resigned as Executive Director of Love INC of Worthington. Included in his motivations is the desire to step away for a while from the stress and expectations of professional ministry. The board invites you to join them in respecting his decision and in praying for God's blessings on him and his family.

Love INC will continue to serve your congregation's outreach. The Clearinghouse, Gap Ministries, and Growing Hope Life Skills classes will be maintained and enhanced with the service of the staff, Vandenn Krouch and Amy Khamphanh, and the board members. We are here to "Equip Christians to Engage and Empower neighbors in need to live more purposeful lives." We invited you to pray for and participate in this ministry as a volunteer, donor, or client.

Further information can be shared by contacting your pastor or Jim Krapf, Board Chair, at 350-1662 or Bob Demuth, Board Vice-Chair at 376-6470, or any other board member.

July 12, 2016 Church Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: June expenses were \$33,576.33; income was \$25,539.42. Building Fund income was \$1,991.00 and expenses were \$4,079.46 for a net income for the month of \$-10,125.37. Balance in the General Fund checking account on June 30, 2016 was \$101,286.46. Building Loan balance at the end of June was \$32,980.16. \$1,530.00 in Adopt-A-Day money was received in June. Memorial Fund balance is \$34,901.64. Scholarship Fund balance is \$624,582.18.

Pastor Mark: Average weekend attendance in June was 245. Average Wednesday evening attendance was 32 (5 Wednesdays). There are 5 weddings scheduled over the next 7 weeks and have been meeting with each of the couples. Wednesday evening services have been going well. Have been working on our church App and is close to being finished. The may allow our services to be available online. Will be helping to design the job description for the Executive Director position of Love INC.

Elders: Welcome back Joel Lorenz and Jim Arnt as Elders. Discussed need for more technology people to help with services. Discussed with Pastor Mark a program called Marriage Mentor. This would pair up a newlywed couple or engaged couple with a couple that has been married for a few years. Training would be provided to the mentors. Discussion will continue on this.

Trustees: Bryon Spittle was elected as Chairman with Dick Thompson and Clarence Mess as Co-Chairmen. As soon as loan is finalized, company is ready to start shingling roof. Discussed several maintenance issues: recaulking between drive-up and the Great Hall, water leaks on kitchen floor, sump pumps status, water heater in kitchen replaced, water fountain in basement will be repaired if possible, or a new one will be purchased.

Christian Education: VBS had 55-60 youth in attendance. Collected 56 lbs. of food for the Manna Food Pantry. Thank you to Al & Connie Reitmeier for providing housing and meals for the Camp Omega staff. Sunday School Kick-Off will be on September 11th, with a focus on the family theme. Possibility of a

Church Council Meeting Highlights continued:

children’s choir is being discussed with Joy Schreiber and Lorenda Glade. Christmas program will have the same format as last year with one service.

Evangelism: Will be hosting at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on January 21, 2017. Planning to meet with pastor to discuss ideas for possible fellowship event.

Unfinished Business: Strategic Planning with Bill Gordon leading is on hold for now. Committee on Constitution Review will be started in the future. DCE Update: Call Committee has been meeting and has a plan that should expedite the call process.

AUGUST WORSHIP HELPERS SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES:

August 7
August 14
August 21
August 28
September 4

8 AM

Austin Heimgartner
Jennifer Preuss
Austin Barber
Brandon Arzu-Bustad
Ashley Ling

10:30 AM

Faith Arnt
Laci Boomgarden
Jessalyn Broesder
MacKenzie Meyeraan
Ivy Paplow

NURSERY (10:30 service only)

August 7
August 14
August 21
August 28
September 4

Jake Ahrenstorff; Gail Holinka
Luke Gordon; Jessica Larson
Eli Hansberger; Alexie Cross
Carson Wolford; Kham HOLETON
Zaydan Abdulrahman; Beth White

Please remember to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. If you cannot fulfill your scheduled date, please find a replacement and call the church office with the change, 376-6168.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

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| August 7 | (8 am) | David & LaVonne Holt |
| | (10:30) | David & Alexie Cross |
| August 14 | (8 am) | Jim & Eloise Langseth |
| | (10:30) | Bruce & Shawn Boomgarden |
| August 21 | (8 am) | Clarence & Twyla Mess |
| | (10:30) | Mike & Cindy Froderman |
| August 28 | (8 am) | Al & Connie Reitmeier |
| | (10:30) | Roger Bakkene; Alice White |
| September 4 | (8 am) | Dean & Phyllis Leistico |
| | (10:30) | DuWayne & Carol Oberloh |



*Please Note: If you are unable to fulfill your scheduled time, please find someone to switch with and then let the church office know of the change. **Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the greeter’s rotation schedule.***